FEATHERED CARPENTERS.

They Accomplish Seem Almost Incredible-Big Trees Cut in Two-Description of These Interesting Woodchoppers.

Written for The Evening Star. THE GREAT REALM OF NATURE CONtains no class of animals more interesting to the student than its feathered tribe, and mong these none more fascinating than the Woodchoppers or woodpeckers. As varied in size as they are in coloration and abundance of the different species, they are to be found in all parts of the world, from the diminutive Sowny, common to our own country, to the

the head is constructed especially for boring into the hardest timber. It has a sharp, chiselike beak, powerful in its construction, a thick, heavy-set skull in comparison, backed by two powerful muscles, enabling the bird to give those rapid, resounding strokes so often heard them that I have seen have they been less true them that I have seen have they been less true into the hardest timber. It has a sharp, chiselike beak, powerful in its construction, a thick, heavy-set skull in comparison, backed by two powerful muscles, enabling the bird to give those rapid, resounding strokes so often heard from a dead tree top. The arrangement of the toes is such as to give the owner the best possible grip of the bark, there being two before and two behind, each armed with long, sharp claws, while as additional support a strif, beistly tail, which is firmly pressed against the tree in whatever position the bird assumes, serves the double purpose of maintaining the bird in his position and also acts as a firm base, from which he at times launches those really terrifie blows at the unyielding wood.

One more part or organ worthy of mention is the tongue, totally different from that of other birds, and armed with short spurs or barbs, the more readily to secure its prey. In the large majority of woodpeckers this tongue can be drawn out to a surprising extent, although just how far the birds have the power of thrusting it I do not know.

SEVEN SPECIES FOUND IN THE DISTRICT.

Of all the species which inhabit North America (thirty-five in number) seven are found in the District of Colymbia. There are the pileated or logocok, as he is often called, largest of all, and next to the largest in North America; the district of the largest in North America; the pileated or logocok, as he is often called, largest of all and next to the largest in North America; the pileated or logocok, as he is often called, largest of all and next to the largest in North America; the control of the pileated or logocok, as he is often called, largest of all and next to the largest in North America; the control of the pileated or logocok, as he is often called, largest of all and next to the largest in North America; the control of the pileated or logocok, as he is often called, largest of all the pileated or logocok, as he is often called, largest of all and next to the largest in North America; the control of the pi

pileated or logcock, as he is often called, largest of all, and next to the largest in North America; the red-headed, red-bellied, golden-winged or flicker, the hairy, sapaucker or yellow-bellied and last and smallest of all the downy. Of these the pileated may be said to be the rarest although quite numerous in former years; next, comes the red-bellied and the hairy, the remainder being about equally common, with the



Very few have seen the pileated woodpecker in all his wild glory. In years gone by they were not uncommon at the capital, but at present they are, and for some years have been extremely scarce. In the early spring of 1889 I heard one in the woods near Potomae landing, and this is the only instance of its occurrence that has come under my notice in four years' observation. Some years ago a dealer at Center Market with more of an eye for business than regard for popular sentiment exposed two barrels of these birds for sale as articles of food. They were killed in eastern Virginia near the coast and it is not surprising that the birds are not numerous in the surrounding country. PILEATED WOODPECKER.

In all of our eastern states and in fact in all the wooded portion of North America the pileated may be found in greater oc less numbers, but the places in which they are most at home and where they may be found in greatest abundance are the dense, swampy forests so numerous in the gulf states and in the Mississippi valley. In the aimost impenetrable swamps of Florida that are particularly abundant and one seldom fails to see a score or more in a day's outing.

The traveler walking through a cypress wamp will suddenly find the stillness broken by a loud rattling call, somewhat resembling a hearty laugh, but so wild and so uncount that we know almost instinctively that it proceeds from no human throat. An instant later this woodpecker comes bounding through the air and slights on the dead trunk of one of the largest trees in the forest; a moment later his mate appears and both begin hammering away for dear life. The chips fly in every direction—

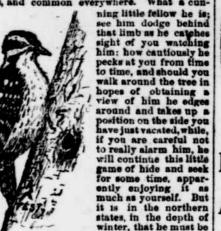
m no human throat. An instant later this odpecker comes bounding through the air d alights on the dead trunk of one of the gest trees in the forest; a moment later his te appears and both begin hammering away dear life. The chips fly in every direction—; ones too—and it takes but a few moments make quite a considerable hole and to ex-

The male is large, a perfect giant, being over a foot in length and nearly twice that in spread of wing, jet black in color, with a white stripe down each side of the neck, and the whole surmounted by a magnificent scarlet creat on the head—a perfect beauty. His mate is much the mane, but the scarlet creat is marked across the forehead with a patch of dingy yellowish brown. How wild he looks and how he pounds. It seems incredible that they can hammer with such force. At a little distance one might readily imagine a wood chopper at his work, and on more than one occasion I have been misled into thinking myself near the cabin of come settler when in reality it was one of the giant woodchoppers pounding away on some tough and weather-seasoned stump.

particular on the Ock-lawsha river in Florida. It was a hard, dead cy-press, and at the place where the birds had

while farmers complain that they are great de-stroyers of corn, which last, however, I do not credit.

THE LITTLE DOWNY. Quite a contrast to the foregoing is the little cies, and common everywhere. What a cun-



have just vacated, while, if you are careful not to really alarm him, he will continue this little game of hide and seek for some time, apparently enjoying it as much as yourself. But it is in the northern states, in the depth of winter, that he must be seen to be appreciated. DOWNT WOODPECKER. He is a hardy little fellow, resident the year round, and on the bit-terest days, when every other form of life is

in western Mexico. From north to south and from east to west, in every country and on every island on the globe, one or more representatives are to be found, showing the family to be a large one and widely distributed.

Their food consists almost entirely of the grubs and larve secreted in dead or decaying wood, and to secure which it is necessary that the head is constructed especially for boring

Another common bird, and one with which most of us are familiar, is the flicker or golden-

much the handsomer of the two.

They are a hardy bird and numbers remain with us throughout the winter, inhabiting the denser swamps of the river bottoms. Nor are they at all particular where they get their food, for I have found them on the ground scratching among the leaves and probing the matted decaying over, while in the fruit season they visit the cherry trees and commit sad havoc. Ordinarily their eggs are from six to eight in number, but they are the most prolific layers imaginable, and experiments of taking an egg every day and leaving one have resulted in securing as many as twenty from a single pair. When a lad at school I remember taking nineteen in this mauner from one nest.

Declaration of the two.

Mrs. Chase has reserved the remainder of the estate, including the oid homestead, for her future home. A good part of it is under culti-forty acres, and was established in 1872.

Genous Simmons.

The old mansion house, which is spacious and comfortable looking, as well as attractive in style, is more than a hundred years old. It was built by Gen. Washington Berry. The estate was purchased in 1869 by Mr. Chase, who was then chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and has remained in the possession of the family ever since.

Crossing the tracks of the Metropolitan Branch railroad, an eighth of a mile east of Chase's, you step into the growing village of Brookland, facts about which were related in the last excursion.

Probably the handsomest of all is the redheaded, and one that will be readily recognized from the picture. He is not particularly

rare, neither is he what we might call common, being found in many of the groves surrounding Washington, and always Mount Pleasant in tional Park, at Arling-tion cemetery and in various other localities they regularly rear their ter, frequenting these same localities. Their note is peculiar, and at times bears close

RED-HEADED

piping of tree frogs, woodprecker.
which are often blamed for predicting rai which are often blamed for predicting rain when in reality they haven't opened their mouths. It is interesting of an evening to watch them fly from their perch on the top of some tree and endeavor to seize passing insects. They are quite fond of this sort of sport, and are really quite expert fly catchers. Taken as a whole they are becoming rare. The immense demands made by the millinery trade and the thousands slaughtered annually for this purpose are beginning to tell, and like many others of our handsomer birds a few years hence one will seek for them in vain.



RED-BELLIED

THE TELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER Next comes the little sapsucker or yellowbellied woodpecker. He is a familiar little fel-

bellied woodpecker. He is a familiar little fellow, frequenting the groves and parks for a few days during his spring and fall visits, although more shy than the little downy. I know of no bird whose note or cry is more distinctively characteristic. If one owns a pet cat and some day in early spring fan lee that he hears it uttering cries of distress the chances are he will find a sapsucker clinging to the tree in front of his door and calling tenderly to his mate in an adjoining one. They are extremely handsome with their sulphur bellies, crimson throats and checkered backs, and one readily forgives their discordant cries in admiring their beauty. The woods about Piney branch are particularly productive of them in March and April, and one can find them at most any hour of the day. They are fully as fond as the downy of hide and seek, and one must be cautious to obtain a close acquaintance.

Last of all we have the hairy next to the pileated and red-bellied in variety, and very much resembling the downy in general appearance, in fact if he were just haif the size he might pass for a very good one indeed. Arlington cemetres in the only place I have seen them for a fort Theyer.

Fort Saratoga (186 feet above tide level) stood at this crossing during war time, in the next heads angle formed by the roads, on the high ground behind Mrs. Walsh's house. Part of the earthworks are yet preserved. Inside of the fence in the southwest angle is a fine spring, called "Fort Saratoga (186 feet above tide level) stood at this crossing during war time, in the high ground behind Mrs. Walsh's house. Part of the earthworks are yet preserved. Inside of the fence in the southwest angle is a fine spring, called "Fort Saratoga (186 feet above tide level)



and Edgewood.

THE HOME OF THE CHASES.

The Half-Way House and Its Memories of Famous Men-The Old Queen's Chapel, Once the Green of the District-The Remains of Fort Saratoga.

FOR A PLEASANT SHORT TRIP TO Brookland, Rigge' and Montello take Lincoln avenue at Florida avenue and North Capitol street, thence to Chase road, to Duncan and Fort streets (Brookland), to Bunker Hill road, to Sargent road, to Riggs road, to North Bladensburg road, to Queen's Chapel road, to Baltimore road, to city. Condition of the roads-Lincoln avenue,

good; Chase road, fair; Duncan and Fort

the last excursion.

As you move along to the left on Duncan street the works of old Fort Bunker will be street the works of old Fort Bunker will be noticed on the right. They stand 248 feet above tide level, and fine, far-reaching views are obtained from the old parapets and from the town that has recently been built upon them.

Reaching Fort Street, take it to the left to Bunker Hill road, which it enters a little to the eastward of the railroad. Taking Bunker Hill road to the right, less than a quarter of a mile, brings you to Sargeott road which fellow to make its home ordinated in the postman drops mail a bell is set ringing. Furthermore, if an occupant of the postman drops mail a bell is set ringing. Furthermore, if an occupant of the postman drops mail a bell is set ringing.

the left.
Frem Bunker Hill road a good view is ob-

Frem Bunker Hill road a good view is obtained of Fort Totten over by the Soldiers' Home.

Advancing along the Sargent road you soon pass on the left the mouth of Bates' road, which leads westward by Fort Totten, the Soldiers' Home and National and Rock Creek Church cemeteries to Kelly's corner.

University Heights, a new villa, is on the right, while the old Queen Mansion is visible in the trees to the left. This latter is an old landmark, having been the home, generations ago, of the Queens, one of the first and most prominent families among the earliest settlers.

A great diversity of scenery is presented from this point—rich truck farms, pleasant-looking farm houses, with here and there a piece of woodland. The Soldiers' Home is prominently visible to the left.

A little south of Fir brook, which is presently passed, runs the line which separates the District of Columbia from Prince George's county, Md.

branch the attractive country places of Messrs.
Snyder and Heurich appear to advantage to the eastward.

Near here is passed a private road on the left and a few hundred paces beyond you enter Queen's Chapel road, which follow to the right.

Northwest branch is again crossed by a wooden bridge near the junction of the roads.

The singularity of the name Queen's Chapel, by which this road is known, may excite your curiosity as to its origin. Jonathan L Queen, one of the earliest and heaviest land owners in this vicinity, being a devout Roman Catholic, erected a place of worship at his own expense on the high ground south of the Brentwood road, which you will soon reach. This church was called Queen's Chapel, from which the road derived its name. But I will soon have something more to say about this chapel.

From the junction of the roads, where we stood when I started on this digression, a good view of the Roman Catholic University is had to the westward.

A little north of the road junction just referred to Marigold brooklet was passed.

Now proceeding along Queen's Chapel road far-reaching, attractive views are presented as the high ground is gained south of Bunker Hill road. Looking to the rightas Milwaukee street, Brookland, is passed the site of old Fort Bunker, over to the right, is visible.

Queen's Chapel road forws the center.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL.

Queen's Chapel road forms the eastern
boundary line of Brookland.

Half a mile south of this point Brentwood

road is crossed.
Fort Saratoga (186 feet above tide level)

take you to the Baltimore pike, which is followed to the right.

THE HALF-WAY HOUSE. The frame house on the south side of the

pike, a few steps west of where you enter it, was the scene of many a lark in the old days. It is the "Half-way House" of story. Although remodeled a few years ago by the present owner, Mr. Sauntus, the building will be easily recognized by old timers."

This was a favorite resort of the sports and statesmen of old. Being near the Bladensburg dueling ground, dueling parties were in the habit of making it their headquarters, and it was no uncommon occurrence to find both belligerents and their friends quartered here in adjoining rooms on the night before the battle. Each side often heard the other rehearse for tomorrow's meeting on the anxious field. This was notably so in the case of Mason and McCarty, in 1819. The former, who was slain, overheard McCarty and his seconds discuss their plans for the encounter.

It is related that Graves stopped here for refreshments on his return to Washington after having sent the fatal bullet through Cilley's body.

Dayton and Cliston in 1902 after having

body.

Dayton and Clinton, in 1803, after having amicably settled their difficulties on yonder field, retired to a room in the old house and had a jolly good time.

Crocker, who was wounded in the lungs by his antagonist, Gibson, in 1822, had his wounds drossed here and remained upon his feverish bed several days.

dressed here and remained upon his feverish bed several days.

The house was also a favorite retreat for our statesmen of old. In the days before railroads the pike was the great avenue of travel to and from the capital city. The celebrities of the period, on horseback and in vehicles, traveled over it; and as they reached the Half-way House they were quite sure to tarry awhile and test its hospitality. Our public men of old were noted for their sociability and conviviality, and much of their time was spent in public houses in social converse. And no place in the vicinity of the capital was more popular than this old hostelry, where many of them were in the habit of congregating for rest and recreation. Many a scheme was hatched here and many

political compromise effected.
It is said that the famous compromise be-It is said that the famous compromise be-tween Clay and Calhoun on the force and ta-iff bills of 1832 (growing out of the South Caro-lina nullification episode) had its inception at a conference held in this house. And all the arrangements for the farcical and bloodless Clay-Randolph duel were completed here by the seconds. It is well known that Clay pre-ferred meeting his antagonist on the Bladens-burg field, but Randolph, under the code, was allowed the selection of the grounds, and he, for sentimental reasons, preferred fighting on Virginia soil.

Science has got hold of the germ recently and identified it beyond question. It is not a bacillus or any kind of bacterium, as has been im-

narily in the soil. It is plentiful in swamps, but wherever virgin ground is turned up for the first time the plasmodium is apt to be very numerously present. It has been noticed in towns that when much digging and turning over of earth has been going on malaria exhibits a tendency to prevail. There has been a good deal of digging in Washington lately.

Entering the human body through the lungs the plasmodium seeks a roosting place in one of the red corpuscles of the blood. These corpuscles are in shape flat, round disks, bearing a curious resemblance under the microscope to pleces of money. How essential their well-being is to health everybody knows. The parasite having taken up its residence in one of the corpuscles proceeds to multiply, forming a little colony. The colony feeds upon the material of the corpuscle, which thus becomes disorganized and is finally destroyed, so that the hostile germs are set affoat in the blood. At the beginning they were merely bits of protoplasmic jelly, without any particular shape, but now they become free swimmers and have developed long hair-like oars to paddle about with. Each one has three such oars radiating from its body. Thus they make their way through the veins and arteries, following the tide of the circulation.

Of course, it is not possible that this sort of thing should go on to any considerable extent without seriously affecting the health of the individual. The latter is attacked by chills, alternating with fever. Quinine and other remedies destructive to the parasites relieve these symptoms. However, if the patient continues to be exposed to the absorption of the germs in a malarious region medicines will cease to have effect. The blood, invaded by hordes of plasmodia, becomes filled with disorganized red corpuscles and nature gives up the fight, death ensuing.

Now that medical science knows precisely what it has to contend against in the treatment of this hitherto mysterious disease it may be able to find more affective, remedies. but wherever virgin ground is turned up for

No sign foretells the near approach of sorrow, No note, no breath of warning in the arr; Still on each sweetest dream the dread tomorrow hath broken answare.

Hap'ly 'twas so ordained by wiser powers, Who in the draught of suffering man must Infused the memory of careless hours As anodyne to pain? Willing that each, unmindful of the knell, Should pluck the flower, should hall the sur rest,

Accept the profered boon with thankful heart, Nor listen for the tramp of troublous years; Remember joy shall soothe when sorrow's smart Turns thy sweet past to tears.

FRONT DOOR POST OFFICES. Every Citizen Soon to Mail His Letters on

pike, a few steps west of where you enter it, was the scene of many a lark in the old days.

WHEN THE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE METHOD of delivering mails was adopted a few

explained that the object was to save the postman's time in waiting for an answer to the bell and to render the delivery of mail as convenient to the recipient as possible. Requirement was made that the receptacle should be cheap, neat in appearance, simple of operation, secure against thieves and so constructed that its contents should be protected against rain, sleet, snow and dust. Furthermore, the mail was not to be accessible at the same time to the postman and the recipient.

In response to this advertisement 400 models were submitted, but none of them was deemed satisfactory, and so a second circular to similar effect was sent out. Ten hundred and thirtyexplained that the object was to save the

satisfactory, and so a second circular to similar effect was sent out. Ten hundred and thirty-five models rewarded this second appeal, and among the number several designs were thought deserving of commendation by the commission appointed for judging the competition. Only one, however, was actually recommended, and this pattern will undoubtedly receive the official approval of the Postmaster General some time within the next few days. It is a mechanical marvel, at once beautiful in its simplicity and admirable in its effectiveness for the purpose contemplated. THE MODEL RECOMMENDED.

The contrivance looks somewhat like an ordinary lamp post letter box on a small scale. good; Chase road, fair; Duncan and Fort streets, fair; Bunker Hill road, fair, and and clay surface; Sargent road, heavy in spots and rough; Riggs road, fair; North Biadensburg road, hard surface, rough in places; Queen's Chapel road, hilly and rough in places, but fairly good as a whole, sand and clay surface; Baltimore road, good.

At Florida avenue and North Capitol street take Lincoln avenue, Eckington being on the right are soon passed.

Prospect Hill, (German) and Glenwood cemeteries on the left and St. Mary's burying ground (Roman Catholic) on the right are soon passed on the left.

Daffodi brooklet and the tracks of the Eckington Electric railroad are crossed. From this point, looking up the road, you get a glimpse of the Roman Catholic University.

The hill to the right, as you leave the railroad, is Edgewood or Metropolis View, the old historic home of the Chases. The tract comprises fifty-three acres, and is now owned and occupied by Kate Chase. Seventeen acres of South of the cemetery you pass on the right and occupied by Kate Chase. Seventeen acres of South of the cemetery you pass on the right is at conference held in this house. And all the aconference held in this house bloodeds the selection of the grounds and held held here by the headen below. The postman come aloue below to the selection of the grounds and held he selection of the testing he have the selection of t It is attached to the front door and is rather

historic home of the Chases. The tract comprises fifty-three acres, and is now owned and occupied by Kate Chase. Seventeen acres of the tract, lying between the Eckington railroad and Lincoln avenue, are now being laid out in a villa site.

Mrs. Chase has reserved the remainder of the estate, including the old homestead, for her future home. A good part of it is under cultivation, the ground being remarkably fertile.

Mrs. Chase devotes much of her time to "farming," as she herself expresses it.

The old mansion house, which is spacious and comfortable looking, as well as attractive in style, is more than a hundred years old. It was sent attractive in style, is more than a hundred years old. It was sent across the street. It was the top of the box. He can only do this after first lifting into viewa little target bearing a red disk two inches in diameter and the target cannot be shut down again so long as anything remains in that compartment. The postman caross the street. It says: "Here is mail to collect." He opens a side door and takes out the letters. A spring attachment serves to hold newspapers. The whole device only costs \$1.10.

OTHER MODELS COMMENDED. Several other kinds of boxes are commended. One looks from the street like a door plate with a slit in it. hetters dropped through the slit fall into a receptacle inside. A second receptacle holds mail intended for collection, and the putting of it in lifts a sign which is visible from without. The postman puts his key into a lock, turns it, swings the whole door plate open, and takes out whatever has been left for him. Another box is attached

mail.

It is not surprising that among the 1,500 and odd boxes submitted many should have been utterly nonsensical. Owing to the fact that "house letter boxes" were advertised for, thir-"house letter boxes" were advertised for, thirteen different contestants sent in models made in the shape of houses. One of these is a small cottage, the chimney of which can be lifted on a hinge to receive letters, which fall so as to be seen through a window of the miniature edifice. Another curiosity is a complicated arrangement of machinery, including pulleys, chains, weights and bells. The commission has sought in vain to discover its purpose. Still another contrivance is in the shape of a book, hollow inside and labeled "Holy Bible," for attachment outside the front door. Yet another is in the form of the American eagle, painted in bright colors. An eccentricity worth mentioning is a tin box painted black and as big as an ordinary bath tub.

Reports thus far circulated respecting those new boxes of Mr. Wanamaker's seem to have conveyed to the public the impression that the Post Office Department will pay for them. On the contrary each householder will be expected to buy his own. At present there is no law by which an individual can be compelled to adopt such a receptacle and attach it to his front door; but it has been suggested that Congress may decree that any one who refuses shall be obliged to go to the general delivery window for his mail. Another question is whether it will be demanded that any given style of receptacle shall be used. On the whole it may be taken for granted that the citizens will be permitted to use a box or not, as he pleases, and that he will buy the kind which suits him best. There will be a hundred patterns on the market as will buy the kind which suits him best. There will be a hundred patterns on the market as soon as the new arrangement has gone into effect, and he can suit himself as to price, from 25 cents upward. No prize was offered in that competition save the glory of approval by the department, which would necessarily be a big advertisement. Manufacturers will presumably do the repairing at a cheap rate. One result of the novel departure is likely to be a cutting down of the force of letter carriers in every city, it being estimated that one-half the present number could do the work if everybody adopted the system.

Speaking of cranks, the Post Office Departsorts. Some of them want letters hunted up that were missed as far back as the beginning of the century. Heirs to imaginary property are continually applying for supposititious missives from relatives abroad and elsewhere. Wives write to ask that clandestine correspondence between their husbands and other women be intercepted and husbands similarly with regard to their wives. Many persons address frantic abuse to the Postmaster General because their love letters have gone astray. If an epistle miscarries accident is never supposed to be at fault, but always the rescality of postal clerks and wicked officials. The gruesome things which reach the dead letter office in packages are enough to make one's fiesh creep. Perhaps the most remarkable of such consignments turned up the other day in a box that had lost its wrapper. It was a female hand, cut off above the wrist, evidently that of a lady. The fiesh was plump as in life and the fingers long and tapering. The superintendent placed it in the post office museum, but it so disturbed his rest the following night with bad dreams that on the next morning he ordered it disposed of.

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